

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Original): A safety barrier for a work station having a support surface, a work piece holder on the support surface and having a front end and a rear end, a work piece being held by the work piece holder, and a tool adapted to engage and perform tasks on the work piece, the barrier comprising:

a first frame member and a second frame member mounted to the supporting surface on opposite sides of the work piece;

an elongated roller extending between the first and second frames and being mounted for rotation about a longitudinal roller axis located in spaced relation above the supporting surface;

a flexible safety barrier rolled up on the roller and having an upper barrier end attached to the roller and a free barrier end adapted to move from a rolled up position adjacent the roller to a rolled down position adjacent the supporting surface in response to rotation of the roller about the roller axis;

each of the first and second frame members having a guide for guiding the flexible barrier as the free end of the barrier moves from the rolled up position to the rolled down position;

the guides of the first and second frame members guiding the lower barrier end sufficiently close to the work piece holder to eliminate sufficient space there between for a human being standing on the support surface; and

a switch electrically connected to the tool and having an inoperative position preventing actuation of the tool and an operative position permitting actuation of the tool, the switch being biased to the inoperative position and being located so as to be responsive to engagement by the free end of the flexible barrier and to move from the first position to the second position only when the free end of the flexible barrier is in the rolled down position.

Claim 2 (Original): A safety barrier according to claim 1 and further comprising a sprocket mounted on the roller, a chain trained around the sprocket and having a first chain end and a second chain end on opposite sides of the sprocket, first and second prime movers connected to the first and second chains respectively and being adapted to move the chain on the sprocket to cause the roller to rotate and move the flexible barrier between the rolled up and rolled down positions.

Claim 3 (Original): The safety barrier according to claim 2 wherein the first and second prime movers each comprise an elongated cylinder and a piston and rod assembly longitudinally extensible relative to the cylinder.

Claim 4 (Original): The safety barrier according to claim 3 wherein the cylinder and piston and rod assembly are pneumatically operated.

Claim 5 (Original): The safety barrier according to claim 1 wherein the guides of the first and second frame members each comprise an elongated track, the flexible barrier having track followers guided within and by the tracks of the first and second frame members.

Claim 6 (Original): The safety barrier according to claim 5 wherein the track followers comprise a plurality of wheels mounted for rolling movement in the elongated tracks of the first and second frame members.

Claim 7 (Original): The safety barrier of claim 1 wherein the roller is positioned above or to the rear of the front end of the work piece holder, and a crane includes a support member positioned in front of the roller for lifting the work piece and holding the work piece for attachment to the work piece holder.

Claim 8 (Original): The safety barrier according to claim 7 wherein the tracks each include an upper track end positioned above or to the rear of the front end of the work piece holder, an

intermediate track positioned in spaced relation in front of the work piece holder, and a lower track extending in a rear direction from the intermediate track.

Claim 9 (Original): In combination:

a supporting surface;

a work piece holder mounted on the supporting surface and having a front end and a rear end

a work piece detachably mounted to the work piece holder;

a tool assembly supported on the supporting surface and having a tool end movable to the work piece for performing tasks on the work piece;

a first frame member and a second frame member mounted to the supporting surface on opposite sides of the work piece;

an elongated roller extending between the first and second frames and being mounted for rotation about a longitudinal roller axis located in spaced relation above the supporting surface;

a flexible safety barrier rolled up on the roller and having an upper barrier end attached to the roller and a free barrier end adapted to move from a rolled up position adjacent the roller to a rolled down position adjacent the supporting surface in response to rotation of the roller about the roller axis;

each of the first and second frame members having a guide for guiding the flexible barrier as the free end of the barrier moves from the rolled up position to the rolled down position;

the guides of the first and second frame members guiding the lower barrier end sufficiently close to the work piece holder to eliminate sufficient space there between for a human being standing on the support surface; and

a switch electrically connected to the tool and having an inoperative position preventing actuation of the tool and an operative position permitting actuation of the tool, the switch being biased to the inoperative position and being located so as to be responsive to engagement by the free end of the flexible barrier and to move from the first position to the second position only when the free end of the flexible barrier is in the rolled down position.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled).